THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) At airports including small airports managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI), facilities like wheel chair for physically challenged passengers and assistance for unaccompanied minors have been provided. However, there has not been any demand for setting up of 'Contact Zone' at other airports in the country including Himachal Pradesh.

Fog related problems at Delhi Airport

716. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of flights at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) at Delhi were delayed or cancelled due to fog during the last three months;

(b) if so, what are the total number of flights that were cancelled or delayed due to fog during the above period;

(c) whether it is a fact that Runway Visual Range measuring machines and lights of taxiways Z-6 and Z-7 occasionally stop working and secondary runway is not CAT-III complaint; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the steps being taken to improve the situation at Delhi airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Indira Gandhi International Airport Delhi has CAT-III B Instrument Landing System (ILS) on Runways 29/11 and 28/10 which enables aircraft landing and takeoff upto runway visibility of 50 mtrs. Usually there are some delays/cancellations of flights during fog due to low visibility if the airlines do not have CAT-III trained pilots and their aircraft are not equipped with the same for operating during fog periods.

(b) The total number of flights delayed/cancelled due to fog during the period were 376 and 82 respectively.

(c) and (d) Seven equipments installed by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) at the three runways are CAT-III B compliant. During the fog season the RVR systems at Runway 28, Mid of 28-10, Runway 10, Runway 27 and Runway 29 worked uninterruptedly 7 x 24 hrs. The RVR systems at Runway 11 failed on one occasion and the RVR system of Mid point of Runway 29-11 failed on four occasions mainly due to failure of power supply. Installation of Uninterrupted Power Supply(UPS) at New Runway locations is being planned.

In-flight services of Air India

717. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: